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REMARKS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2004. In view of the following discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

Claim 64 is objected to for depending on a cancelled claim. Claim 64 has been cancelled. As such, the objection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim 40 has been amended to more clearly recite aspects of the invention. The applicants submit that this amendment was made for reasons unrelated to patentability and that no new matter has been added.

Claims 59 and 61-63 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,257,953, issued July 10, 2001, to *Gitis et al.* (hereinafter *Gitis*). In response the Applicants have amended claim 59 to more clearly recite aspects of the invention. Claim 63 has been cancelled.

Claims 59 and 61-62 recite limitations not taught or suggested by *Gitis*. *Gitis* discloses a polishing pad (24) having conductive pins (26A – M) disposed in the pad. (*Gitis*, col. 4, l. 65 – col. 5, l. 2; Figs. 1-2.) The conductive pins of *Gitis* provide conduction to the surface of the pad, but not over the polishing surface of the pad. As such, and as can be clearly seen by the plan view of the pad depicted in Figure 2 and its accompanying text, *Gitis* fails to teach or suggest a polishing article having a conductive polishing surface that provides a conductive path over the polishing surface and a plurality of grooves disposed in the polishing surface, as recited by claim 59. In addition, and contrary to the Examiner's assertion, *Gitis* does not teach or suggest a plurality of perforations formed in at least a portion of the polishing article for flow of material therethrough, as recited in claim 59. Therefore, *Gitis* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 59 and 61-62.

Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 59 and 61-62 are patentable over *Gitis*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

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Claims 39-40, 42-48, and 50-55, 57-58, and 64-66 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Gitis* in view of United States Patent No. 6,641,471, Issued November 4, 2001, to *Pinhiero et al.* (hereinafter *Pinhiero*). In response the Applicants have amended independent claims 39, 47, and 57 to more clearly recite aspects of the invention. Claims 64-66 have been cancelled.

Independent claims 39, 47, and 57, from which the remaining above-rejected claims depend, recite limitations not taught, shown, or suggested by the cited art. As noted above, *Gitis* fails to teach or suggest a polishing article having a conductive polishing surface that provides a conductive path over the polishing surface, as recited by claims 39 and 47. In addition, *Gitis* fails to teach or suggest a polishing article having a conductive polishing surface that provides a conductive path over at least a portion of the polishing surface, as recited by claim 57.

Pinhiero teaches and suggests a polishing pad having a uniform micro-texture. However, *Pinhiero* fails to teach or suggest a polishing article having a conductive polishing surface that provides a conductive path either over the polishing surface, as recited by claims 39 and 47, or over at least a portion of the polishing surface, as recited by claim 57. As such, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established the combination of the cited references fails to yield all of the limitations of the invention as recited by independent claims 39, 47, and 57, and all claims respectively depending therefrom.

Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 39-40, 42-48, and 50-55, 57-58, and 64-66 are patentable over *Gitis* in view of *Pinhiero*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 41 and 56 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Gitis* in view of *Pinhiero*, and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,692,338, issued February 17, 2004, to *Kirchner* (hereinafter *Kirchner*). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 41, depending from independent claim 39, and independent claim 56 recite limitations not taught or suggested by any combination of the cited art. As discussed above, the combination of *Gitis* and *Pinhiero* fails to teach or suggest a polishing article having a conductive polishing surface that provides a conductive path over the polishing

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surface or over at least a portion of the polishing surface, as respectively recited by claims 39 and 56.

Kirchner teaches and suggests a polishing pad having a through-pad slurry drainage feature. However, *Kirchner* fails to teach or suggest a polishing article having a conductive polishing surface that provides a conductive path over the polishing surface, as recited by claim 39, or over at least a portion of the polishing surface as recited by claim 56. As such, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because the combination of the cited references fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the limitations of the invention as recited by claims 41 and 56.

Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 41 and 56 are patentable over *Gitis* in view of *Pinhiero*, and further in view of *Kirchner*.

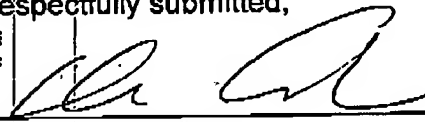
New claims 67-76 have been added to the Application. The Applicants submit that claims 67-76 are patentable over the art of record at least for the reasons discussed above. The Applicants further submit that the claims are supported by the specification and that no new matter has been added.

Thus, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dec 17, 2004


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